

REMARKS

Reconsidered of this application is respectfully requested.

Claims 15-18, 21, 22 and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamashita (US Patent No. 5, 946,978). Examiner suggests that it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to reverse the parts of Yamashita such that the nose portion 95 of the indexing spring 42 continuously engages the channel 80 from within instead of outside of the adjusting member 40 during control cable adjustment. On the contrary, Yamashita not only fails to suggest a reversal of parts but such a reversal would not be possible without reengineering of the Yamashita device. In other words, Examiner's suggested modification by reversal of parts would require further inventive step not suggested by Yamashita. Looking to the Yamashita device, the spring 42 is disposed *between* the cable guide portion 50 and the adjusting member 40. Namely, the first section 91 of the spring 42 is supported on the interior surface of the threaded inner bore 52 of the cable guide portion 50 while nose portion 95 of the spring 42 engages the exterior of threaded portion 78 of the adjusting member 40. Accordingly, one could not merely have the nose portion 95 of the spring 42 engage the interior of the adjusting member 40 without reengineering the entire spring configuration and its relationship to both the cable guide portion 50 and the adjusting member 40. No such reengineering is suggested by Yamashita as it would require further inventive steps.

Additionally, the present invention provides benefits and features not suggested by a mere reversal of parts of Yamashita or any other prior art reference. Looking to the device of Yamashita, the exterior surface of the adjusting member 40 fulfills two discrete functions, threadably engaging the cable guide portion 50 and providing detenting through engagement with the spring 42. Since the threading function requires a circular exterior shape of the adjusting member 40, the detenting function is likewise limited to such a shape. The present invention, on the other hand, relocates the detenting function to the interior surface of the adjuster, thereby allowing the detent contour to assume any desired shape, and in turn, achieve any desired rotational resistance and detent frequency (see

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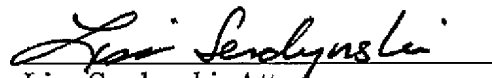
specification at page 3, paragraph [0011]). Further by relocating the detent contour and function to the interior the adjuster, the need for a notch 60 in the cable guide portion 50 of Yamashita is eliminated. Accordingly, the features and benefits of the present invention are not suggested by Yamashita. Therefore, the rejection of claim 15 should be withdrawn.

Claims 16-18, 21, 22 and 25 were rejected as claim 15 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). Since claims 16-18, 21, 22 and 25 depend directly or indirectly from and contain all the limitations of claim 15 as amended, they are felt to overcome the obviousness rejection in the same manner as amended claim 15.

This reply is believed to be fully responsive to the comments and suggestions of the Examiner and to place this application in condition for allowance. Favorable action is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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